



Volume 13, No. 2

Published monthly for the citizens of Broken Arrow

February, 2005



EMS... BA Fire Dept. Does It's Own Thing

The name might not be as catchy as that of an area ambulance company. It may be a letter short. But the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provided by Broken Arrow's Fire Department has been making a name for itself for several years...not to mention saving lives!

The BAFD was a trend-setter for Oklahoma when it introduced dual roles and cross training for personnel. All Firefighters are trained in fire suppression as well as pre-hospital care. No separate calls have to be made to an ambulance service during incidents of medical crisis. First responders from the BAFD are trained to make emergency rescues, fight fires AND provide medical care until patients arrive at the hospital.

The average response time in BA city limits is only 4 minutes, 6 seconds. There are 39 Paramedics EMTs, 10 Intermediate EMTs and 57 Basic EMTs. Five stations are located strategically through the city. And the ambulances are either red or due to be painted red.

The name, the service and the ambulances -- they're all distinctive!

Orange Barrels and Blue Pipes:

As I drive around Broken Arrow, I see more and more infrastructure construction being done by either City of Broken Arrow crews or contractors. Orange barrels in the case of roadwork, or stacks of large blue pipes, indicating water lines, often identify these work sites. These signs of progress tell us that work has begun on those street and intersection improvements that you, the citizens of Broken Arrow, voted to have done in last year's bond election. As for the blue pipes, right now they may be found along East Kenosha from 193rd (County Line) on east to our water plant. They are neighborhood service lines, which will tie in to the new 36" water line that is being installed to serve Broken Arrow for many years into the future.

While we are happy to see better streets and an assured supply of drinking water, we also know that the construction will cause some inconvenience to drivers and residents while it is being done. Some major intersections, such as Highway 51 and East Houston will be traffic bottlenecks for several months. Property owners along East Kenosha will have to endure temporary digging in the rights-of-way on their land until the water lines are in place.

Is it worth it? You bet it is! Please bear with as we go through the growing pains and go about improving our infrastructure to serve our citizens not only today, but for generations to come.

Best wishes,
Mayor Richard Carter

City Crime Rate Drops 5 percent in 04

Already named Oklahoma's "Safest City" by a national rating service, based on crime statistics, Broken Arrow got more good news in January when it was revealed the crime rate here had dropped 5 percent from 2003.

Chief Todd Wuestewald praised the community and how well citizens have worked with the Police Department in keeping crime rates low -- particularly in view of the rapid growth in population.

Mayor, Council Review 2005-06 Budget Issues

The Mayor and Council began work with City staff on the budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 at a special meeting in late January. City departments are in the process of planning their budgets for next year and the City Manager and Finance Director were looking for direction from the Council on financial matters.

Sales tax revenues to the City are up approximately 8 percent, but steady population growth continues to

place heavy demand on City programs and services. The Mayor and Council need to balance community needs with available resources.

One step the Mayor and Council are taking this year that will help them with the allocation of resources is development of a strategic plan. The plan, which the Mayor and Council and key city personnel have been working on since last October, should be ready to use in conjunction with the budget process this spring. The strategic plan will address such things as public safety, the City's identity and image and quality of life.

At the special Council meeting discussion included such topics as setting a reserve policy for the City's funds, much like the State's "Rainy Day Reserve," paying off debt early and reviewing projections of the City's funds based on current revenues and expenses. There will be additional budget workshops with the Mayor and Council, open to the public, to look a specific spending or expense cutting proposals.



Special School Nights Set at Youth Center

In an effort to get more of Broken Arrow's young people acquainted with the opportunities at the Youth/Community Center in Nienhuis Park, a special "School Night" program has been announced by Recreation Division Manager Claudia Dyer of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The center opened in August and offers a game room, computer room, meeting rooms, an outdoor court with basketball goals, tables and chairs. It's located just off Lynn Lane (east side), between Omaha (51st) and Albany (61st).

Special School Nights will begin Feb. 4 for students from Centennial Middle School and will continue through May 13. From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the facility will be reserved for students, parents and faculty from the designated school(s). Only those attending the designated school, along with their immediate families and faculty, may attend. Up until 7 p.m., normal schedules will remain in effect.

"The nights have been set aside so that kids of similar ages and their parents from all over the city of Broken Arrow can come to the Youth/Community Center and see what it has to offer," said Dyer.

The game room will be open for play, including a pool table, ping-pong, shuffleboard, and foosball, along with board games in the meeting room. There will also be access to the Internet accessible computer room.

The Broken Arrow Optimist Club will be providing hot dogs and popcorn and free Youth/Community Center Frisbees. See the City web site for complete schedules.

Teens to Visit State Capitol March 1

Youth City Council Hits Final Stretch

While the weather might be mindful of anything but spring recently, the 10 members of the Broken Arrow 2005 Youth City Council know spring is just around the corner -- and so are the big events of their year. While currently working on their major project(s) for the

Members of the BA Youth City Council this year are (seated, from left) seniors Brooke Devillier (mayor), Lauren Gillette (vice mayor), Rachael McGuiness, Damilola Olusola and Chase Elkins. Standing are juniors Jessica Roberts, Katie Roberts, Rachel Vander Hagen, Gary Thurmond and Amanda Barfield.



year, the

YCC is also finalizing plans for a trip to the State Capitol March 1, their Mock City Council Meeting March 28 and their "Grand Finale" -- a report to the City Council April 4.

Some time in April they will host a second "Youth Festival" -- either April 2 and April 23. Last year's festival was hit by cool, damp weather and some events had to be cancelled, leaving only a Battle of the Bands at Central Park.

This is the fourth year for the YCC, a program developed by City Council Member Wade McCaleb and supported by the entire Council. McCaleb also sets up the meeting schedule, special events and heads each of the meetings throughout the year. High school juniors and seniors who live in Broken Arrow are eligible. Forms are made available at the start of school each year, and City Council members select a junior from each ward, plus one "at-large."

The first part of their terms is focused on learning about the City's municipal government structure and the various departments. The YCC then turns to "brainstorming" sessions to come up with plans for the year and possible proposals to the City Council. The mock council meeting gives them a chance to conduct a city council meeting, with real issues which have come up in the past. And the final session gives them the opportunity to address the City Council.

Helpful City Phone Numbers

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| City Hall | 251-5311 |
| Police Department | 259-8400 |
| Emergencies | 911 |
| Animal Control | 259-8311 |
| Action Center | 258-3587 |
| Fire Dept. | 259-8360 |
| Parks & Rec. | 259-8380 |
| Public Works | 259-8373 |
| Municipal Court | 451-8558 |
| Utility Payment | 259-8409 |
| After Hours Emergencies for Water, Sewer | |
| 259-8400 | |

Community Calendar

Feb. 1-12 -- Broken Arrow Main Street Merchants hold "Customer Appreciation Week," leading up to Valentine's Day. Sweets at participating businesses and registration for an Appreciation Basket.

Feb. 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 -- BA Community Playhouse presents "No Time for Sergeants" at The Main Place theatre. Performances 8 p.m. on the first four dates and a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Feb. 12. Call 258-0077 for tickets and information.

Feb. 6 -- Official Centennial Celebration begins for Arkansas Valley State Bank, with special activities planned all year.

Feb. 7-9 -- Filing period for City Council seats in Wards 1 and 2.

Feb. 8 -- School election for Union Public Schools and Tulsa County Technology program.

Feb. 13 -- BA Arts & Humanities Council presents Vienna Choir Boys at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3 p.m. Call 259-4300, ext. 244 or 258 for information.

Feb. 19 -- City of BA Homeowners Association Workshop. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Youth/Community Center in Nienhuis Park. Specially designed to provide information for homeowners associations.

March 11 -- Deadline for registering to vote in the April 5 City Council elections.

March 12 -- Project Graduation (BAHS) Crafts and Business Fair at BAHS gym, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, or to participate, call Kimberly Scaffetta at 451-3277 or Cindy Atchley at 455-6363. Project Graduation is a free (to graduation students) program.



THE NEW CHIEF'S 'CHIEF' -- New BA Fire Chief Dennis McIntire has his badge pinned on him at a January City Council meeting by his wife Martha.